

# JP Progressive Candidate Questionnaire

150 word maximum, no minimum. We will publish your answers in their entirety in the web version of this Candidate Survey. In the printed version, we reserve the right to edit for length, but not for meaning or intent.

## (1) Budget

Next year, with federal stimulus dollars dwindling, the state may be facing a budget structural deficit of \$2 billion dollars or more. As a state legislator, how will you propose we bridge that gap? Please answer yes or no to each question, and explain your choices at the end.

### REVENUE

Income tax increase?	y	n
Sales tax increase?	y	n
Gas tax increase?	y	n
Fee increases?	y	n
Eliminate, reduce or cap certain tax credits (i.e. film, life sciences, etc.)	y	n
Misc. other revenue sources (other tobacco products, candy/soda, expanding bottle bill, etc.?)	y	n
Freezing or increasing corporate tax rate?	y	n
Other?	y	n

### CUTS:

Cuts to local aid?	y	n
Cuts to education funding?	y	n
Cuts to social safety net services?	y	n
Cuts to infrastructure maintenance and improvements?	y	n
Cuts to state payroll costs (i.e. layoffs, furloughs, benefit reductions, Quinn bill benefits, salary freezes, etc.). (If yes, please elaborate)?	y	n

PLEASE EXPLAIN YOUR CHOICES.

## (2) Expanded Gambling

Do you support expanding gambling in the Commonwealth? Why or why not? If yes, in what ways?

## (3) Health Care

What are the successes, challenges, and disappointments you see stemming from the 2006 Massachusetts Health Care Reform Act? Do you have any improvements you would suggest, or areas of particular concern that need work?

## (4) Immigration

During the last budget process, several anti-immigrant proposals were raised in both the House and Senate. These proposals have included costly bureaucratic measures to double-verify that no undocumented immigrant is receiving a benefit for which they are not eligible, and setting up hot-lines that would allow people to report their neighbors if they believe s/he is an illegal immigrant. Would you support proposals like these, and why or why not?

## Labor/Workers Rights

### (5) MINIMUM WAGE

Would you support indexing the minimum wage to inflation, so it keeps up with the cost of living? And would you also support raising the minimum wage to a level closer to an actual living wage?

### (6) PAID SICK DAYS

Many workers in Massachusetts do not receive paid sick days. Would you support legislation that guarantees that all Massachusetts workers can earn paid sick days?

## Criminal Justice

### (7) YOUTH VIOLENCE

Given the resurgence of youth violence in the city, what specific steps do you think the Legislature should take to ensure the safety of youth in our city?

### (8) MANDATORY MINIMUMS

Do you support efforts to reform our "mandatory minimum" sentencing laws for drug-related offenses? If so, what reforms would you like to see?

### (9) MEDICINAL MARIJUANA

Do you support legalizing marijuana for medical purposes only? Why or why not?

## Housing

### (10) FORECLOSURE PREVENTION

What steps do you think the state should take to protect tenants and homeowners facing foreclosure?

### (11) HOMELESSNESS

What steps do you think the state should take to prevent, reduce and ultimately eliminate homelessness?

## **(12) Environment**

If elected, what would be your top three environmental and environmental justice priorities for the next legislative session?

### **Transportation**

If elected, what would your transportation—and in particular public transportation—priorities be?

### **Education**

*(14) ED REFORM*

Did you, or would you have if you were in office, voted for the education reform bill that was passed by the Legislature and signed into law? Why or why not?

*(15) MCAS*

What is your vision for how standardized tests, including the MCAS, should be used in our school systems?

## **(16) Women's Right to Choose:**

Many states, including Massachusetts, have enacted or proposed barriers to women seeking to access an abortion—from waiting periods to mandatory ultrasounds. Would you oppose any additional legal barriers to women seeking abortion services in Massachusetts?

## **(17) Welfare**

Each legislative session, many bills are filed that would reform our social welfare (cash assistance programs, food stamps, affordable housing & homeless shelters, etc.) systems in various ways. Are there ways in which you feel these systems should be reformed—and if so, what are they?

## **Government Reform**

*(18) ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY*

What are the top three specific steps you would suggest for improving accountability and transparency in state government?

*(19) BARRIERS TO CHANGE*

Many people feel as though the biggest barriers to progressive change in Massachusetts is the culture on Beacon Hill, and how the legislative system currently operates. Do you agree—and if so, what do you think is the source of this “cultural” problem? How would you suggest changing it?

## **Lightning Round - Please Answer Yes or No**

1. Do you support ballot question #1, which would repeal the sales tax on alcohol?
2. Do you support ballot question #2, which would repeal the 40B affordable housing law?
3. Do you support ballot question #3, which would lower the sales tax to 3%?
4. Do you support a Single Payer health care system?
5. Will you support allowing undocumented students who have graduated from a Massachusetts high school to pay in-state tuition rates at state colleges and gain access to higher education?
6. Do you support expanding the Massachusetts Bottle Bill to include water, sport and fruit drinks?
7. Do you support legislation to allow for Election Day Registration (EDR) in the Commonwealth?
8. Do you support a woman's fundamental right to choose an abortion as stated in *Roe v. Wade*?
9. Will you support current legislation to extend civil rights (including employment non-discrimination, hate crimes, protections, and student rights) to transgender individuals?
10. Do you support same sex marriage?
11. Do you support restoring the Clean Elections system - with adequate funding - in Massachusetts?
12. Do you support the death penalty?

# Representative Jeffrey Sánchez

*(Editor's Note: The respondent's questionnaire is printed as submitted. We have attempted to match his responses up with the questions they most closely answer.)*

## (1) Budget

### REVENUE

Income tax increase?	y	n
Sales tax increase?	y	n
Gas tax increase?	y	n
Fee increases?	y	n
Eliminate, reduce or cap certain tax credits (i.e. film, life sciences, etc.)	y	n
Misc. other revenue sources (other tobacco products, candy/soda, expanding bottle bill, etc.?)	y	n
Freezing or increasing corporate tax rate?	y	n
Other?	y	n

### CUTS

Cuts to local aid?	y	n
Cuts to education funding?	y	n
Cuts to social safety net services?	y	n
Cuts to infrastructure maintenance and improvements?	y	n
Cuts to state payroll costs (i.e. layoffs, furloughs, benefit reductions, Quinn bill benefits, salary freezes, etc.). (If yes, please elaborate)?	y	n

### PLEASE EXPLAIN YOUR CHOICES

My colleagues and I in the House of Representatives passed a \$27.94 billion balanced budget without any increases in taxation. The budget increases state spending by 0.2 percent above projected spending this fiscal year and closes budget gaps of more than \$12.5 billion. Despite the challenging budget, I fought for several initiatives in the state's budget appropriations that I have vigorously worked for years to support, including programs for youth, education, housing, and public health—fundamental programs that benefit the people of my district and the Commonwealth. Successful budget amendments that I filed and were passed into law include increased transparency in the cost of health care through the expansion of the All Claims Payer Database, an expanded program for enhanced coordinated care for pediatric asthma patients served by MassHealth, and the restoration of Reading Recovery, which provides one-to-one tutoring for children at risk of failing to read in first grade.

## (2) Expanded Gambling

Since the legislature began talks of expanded gaming, I have consistently been opposed to the development of casinos in Massachusetts.

## (3) Health Care

I am proud of my work with my colleagues in assuring that Massachusetts became the first in the nation to establish a comprehensive health reform law, establishing some ambitious goals: achieving nearly universal coverage for Massachusetts, care and coverage that would be affordable and of high quality, and a more transparent and accountable process of expanding coverage. Residents covered by MassHealth and Commonwealth Care increased by 122,000 during the first year of reform, equal to almost one third of the 372,000 residents estimated were uninsured in June 2006. As of spring 2009, 2.7% of the population was uninsured. Many provisions of Chapter 58 break new ground, and while commendable, have potential pitfalls ahead:

- Coverage does not equal access;
- 1 in 5 adults reported difficulty obtaining care because providers were not accepting new patients or not accepting their insurance type;
- Still a large percentage of residents (21%) do not get needed service due to medical costs.

## (4) Immigration

During the 2011 fiscal year House budget debate, the House of Representatives and I successfully filed an amendment that defeated an budget language that would have required all agencies providing public benefits to use the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) system to determine non-citizen eligibility for assistance—extraordinarily costly and burdensome to implement for many agencies, especially to those with few immigrant applicants. Numerous safeguards currently exist in benefit programs to keep fraud minimal, such as fines, jail time, and immigrant notification. Agencies should not have to spend disproportionate sums of money or completely redesign current eligibility determination processes to verify immigrant eligibility. While the debate regarding immigration reform has not reached resolution, the federal government must immediately fairly enforce existing immigration policy.

## Labor/Workers Rights

### (5) MINIMUM WAGE

### (6) PAID SICK DAYS

I am the lead sponsor of “An Act Opposing Unnecessary Language Restrictions in the Workplace,” which will make it generally illegal for employers to use workplace language restrictions like “English Only” rules. Thus, it will allow employees the freedom to use the language of their choice at the workplace.

I am also co-sponsor of the “Paid Sick Days Act,” the purpose of which is to make certain that all workers can address their own health needs and the health needs of their families by requiring employers to provide a minimum of 7 paid sick days per year. Additionally, I am a co-sponsor of a proposal that will give the 4,300 family child care providers who receive payment from the Commonwealth the right to organize for the purpose of improving professional development, and recruitment and retention rates. Implementation of this bill will lead to increased quality and professional development in family child care.

## **Criminal Justice**

### *(7) YOUTH VIOLENCE*

I have continuously advocated for youth violence and gang prevention grants, school to career connecting activities, and summer job programs for at-risk youth. I fought for increased funding to be allocated to summer job programs for at-risk youth. As a result of these efforts, the FY11 budget allocated \$9.1 million to summer job programs for at-risk youth, enabling nearly 5,000 youth the opportunity of employment.

### *(8) MANDATORY MINIMUMS*

Along with programs for at risk youth I also supported the CORI reform bill, H.4703. The new CORI law shortens the wait time for sealing criminal records to 10 years for felony convictions and to five years for misdemeanors. It simplifies the sealing process and mandates aspects of the hiring process. In addition, certain drug offenders will become eligible for parole before fully serving their minimum mandatory sentences. This new CORI law will provide employment opportunities for ex-offenders currently shut out of jobs.

### *(9) MEDICINAL MARIJUANA*

## **Housing**

### *(10) FORECLOSURE PREVENTION*

I have been a long-standing proponent for affordable housing and have worked for years to preserve it and to protect vulnerable populations living in publicly assisted housing. During the 2009-2010 legislative session I supported the passage of a law that protects tenants in foreclosed properties and helps lenders and homeowners avoid foreclosure. The right to cure period will be extended from 90 days to 150 days allowing lenders and homeowners a window to work out a new payment plan.

### *(11) HOMELESSNESS*

I also filed a bill to revitalize state public housing and to preserve units by providing greater flexibility to housing authorities. This will grant local housing authorities the ability to maximize resources available for the rehabilitation of public housing. In addition, I supported the expansion of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credits program allowing

developers to finance part of the development cost with equity invested by corporations, thereby helping to keep rents low and affordable. In the community I have worked to assure that project in the district have access to state resources for affordable housing projects which include the Betsaida Gutierrez Coop and the Julia Martin House in Jamaica Plain as well as the Pickle Dittson Project in Mission Hill among others.

## **(12) Environment**

As a long time supporter of the toxic use reduction, I am co-sponsor of “An Act for a Competitive Economy through Safer Alternatives to Toxic Chemicals,” legislation that will create a comprehensive program to replace toxic chemicals with safer alternatives in consumer products and other businesses. It will protect public health from adverse health impacts and develop opportunities to strengthen the competitiveness and growth of Massachusetts businesses. I have also worked closely with the Department of Conservation and Recreation which awarded \$128,600 in matching funds for three improvement projects within the district including \$50,000 in matching funds to install lighting and to resurface three basketball courts in the Roxbury section of the SWCP, \$45,600 to add an additional 600 linear feet of steel fencing toward the Arborway hillside and Forest Hills, and \$33,000 to develop treatment guidelines for the crosswalks and paths of the parks. I also voted in favor of the much debated bill relative to siting land based wind projects and I also support the expanded bottle bill.

## **(13) Transportation**

In response to years of inaction on major issues including pension and employee reform, institutional inertia (and obsolescence), and declining revenues that have brought on huge structural deficits and poor service, my colleagues and I in the House of Representatives enacted a sweeping transportation reform package that eliminated the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority, which brought down insurance and pension costs and aligned state transportation agencies to implement cost savings and efficiencies. Additionally, I was successful in working with members such as Representative Malia in eliminating the transfer of the Department of Conservation and Recreation parkways and bridges to the Highway Division of the newly created Massachusetts Transportation and Infrastructure Authority. I also worked with affected riders, Jamaica Plain businesses, and other elected officials to continue the 48 Loop Bus service in Jamaica Plain.

## **Education**

### *(14) ED REFORM*

The Commonwealth is stricken with gaps in academic achievement between various ethnic groups and their English speaking counterparts. In this session I was successful in demanding the inclusion of three provisions adopted

from my English language learner bill into “An Act Relative to the Achievement Gap,” which was passed into law and will directly benefit limited English learners in our schools. In addressing the achievement gap, this new law requires that steps be taken to address gaps for limited English proficient students in every school and or district turnaround plan. Additionally, any turnaround school with limited English proficient students must provide development and planning time for staff to develop strategies and content to maximize achievement of such students. Finally, any school that operates a limited English proficient program must establish parent advisory councils for parents of those students so that they can participate and give feedback on the effectiveness of the programs.

(15) MCAS

### (16) Women’s Right to Choose

I support a Woman’s right to chose and I will fight any initiatives to change or overturn Roe v. Wade.

### (17) Welfare

I support activities and programs that will increase the education, skills, and employment of Massachusetts’ youth and their successful integration into the Massachusetts economy. I have been a long-standing proponent for affordable housing and have worked for years to preserve affordable housing to protect vulnerable populations living in publicly assisted housing while encouraging the development of low-income housing. I have worked to stabilize communities adversely impacted by the foreclosure crisis in Massachusetts. By protecting tenants and promoting negotiations between homeowners and lenders, economic hardships for many families will be avoided.

## Government Reform

(18) ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

This session was the productive session in recent history related to government reform. I supported the ethics reform bill enacted into law that provides numerous layers of accountability to ensure government is being operated in an ethical, fair, just, and open manner—the bill covers four major sections: lobbying and ethics, open meetings, campaign finance, and conduct of public employees. In response to individuals who exploit loopholes to increase pension payments at a high cost to the state, I supported landmark legislation passed into law in 2008 that eliminates the worst offenses in the state pension system. The bill shuts down loopholes in current law, saves taxpayer money, and helps restore public trust in the state oversight of public pensions. For the transportation reforms please see my previous statements under transportation. With the implementation of these three reforms the government has been able to restore some of its lost credibility.

(19) BARRIERS TO CHANGE

## Lightning Round

1. Ballot question #1. **No**
2. Ballot question #2. **No**
3. Ballot question #3. **No**
4. Single Payer. **Yes**
5. In-state tuition. **Yes**
6. Expanding the Bottle Bill. **Yes**
7. Election Day Registration. **No Response**
8. Right to choose. **Yes**
9. Transgender Rights. **Yes**
10. Same sex marriage. **Yes**
11. Clean Elections. **No**
12. Death penalty. **No**